

28 October 1955

Mr. Boris C. W. Hagelin, Sr.
Zug, Switzerland

Dear Boris:

I have two of your letters to answer and I thank you very much for both of them.

First, your letter of 15 October. The retirement ceremony was indeed impressive and I will send you, via Dr. Shinn, some things pertaining thereto; he can add descriptive details related thereto which he has not as yet told you perhaps in his letter. The ceremony was not tiring for me. On the contrary, I benefitted a great deal by way of the "lift" it gave me to realize that I was fortunate in being among those present to hear the eulogies myself rather than have only my family present to hear them.

As to the Candela book — I am sending it with Dr. Shinn, since he will be in Zug, I understand, on 7-8 November, which is much before the book could get there by mail unless air-mailed, which would be expensive and somewhat unwarranted under the circumstances. Although I have indeed taken note that you suggest in your letter of 19 October that Dr. Shinn might hand the book over to M. de Chaumy or to Col. Arnaud himself, this would be rather difficult, since Shinn will be in Paris only long enough to change planes.

The occasion of your journey to Paris on 20 October must have been a rather sad one for you, since with the passing of Mr. Gustave Nobel came for you, too, the end of a famous dynasty and one which you knew quite intimately.

I note in your letter of 15 October what you said about the possibility of your coming to America this winter, and it looked at that time as though the decision in the matter hung upon Margareta's health. I just now finished talking with Inky on the telephone, who told me that in her recent conversations with Margareta she had observed quite marked improvement in Margareta's outlook and reactions. Thus it seems that M. is much better now, in which, of course, we all rejoice. Inky said furthermore that Margareta has indicated nothing to her at all about a possible trip to Europe. On the other hand, it seems that Art and Inky are holding up the christening of Arthur III until you and Annie get here. So you'd better buy your passage and come over soon — the ecclesiastical authorities will hold you responsible for whatever ill effects come from delaying that ceremony unduly!

The biggest news your letter of 15 October contains is that about the recent change in your and Bo's business relationships and plans for the immediate future. I would indeed like to know more about this and hope that either you will write me or will tell Dr. Shinn et al what you can about the change. I suppose you know that Mr. Chiles will be coming with Shinn; also Mr. Douglass, whom you may remember meeting in Washington during a conference or two. I hope everything will go well with them in connection with their visit, and, of course, with you.

Thank you in advance for any courtesies you are able to show them.

As for me now, my retirement has meant, for the present, only a good deal more work! There are many letters and messages to answer; and then many thank-you letters have to be written to many people who assisted in making the ceremony so impressive and such an unforgettable occasion.

I must thank you for your very heartwarming comment upon my receipt of the National Security Medal — the 6th award made thus far. This, like the Medal for Merit (awarded me in 1946), is a Presidential decoration; and since there are only two such decorations, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover and I are the only persons living to have the distinction (and, I feel personally, the very great honor) of holding both decorations. Now the only thing left for me to strive for is election to our National Academy of Science! I shall need much help in this if I decide to try for it.

Elizabeth joins me in sending love to Annie and most affectionate regards to you.

Sincerely,

P.S. A couple of months ago I wrote Bo asking if he would be so kind as to purchase for me one more of those spring-driven razors from the Thorens Company and ship the thing via commercial so that I could pay whatever duty was involved. I have never heard from him. So, if it is not asking too much of you, please remind him, or perhaps you could purchase it for me with funds to be provided by me through Mr. Chiles or Dr. Shinn who will bring the razor to me. I need only the razor — not the recently-developed new hair-trimming head in addition, because I have one of the latter heads, a spare that I can use. The two razors he bought for me thus far were taken from me by friends!

Also, I am sending you a spare battery for your small radio I brought you. This came to me some time ago, when I filled out a card to the manufacturer, as I wrote you, and the spare battery was sent without charge.